

APPROVED: Meeting No. 19-91

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 11-91

April 15, 1991

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Special Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on April 15, 1991, at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepien

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Councilmember David Robbins (Travel Leave)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Mayor Duncan introduced a special guest from Pinneberg, Gabriele-Schmidt Heins, who is the artist awarded the commission of the Sculpture on the Grounds at Welsh Park. Ms. Schmidt-Heins will be visiting Rockville for a week and will return in June to actually begin her project.

Re: Delivery to Mayor and Council
of Proposed FY1992 Operating
Budget and FY1992-97 Capital
Improvements Program.

The City Manager advised the Mayor and Council that the proposed budgets would be mailed to local governments, interested businesses and the boards and commissions and

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civic associations. The public hearings on the budget are scheduled for May 7 and 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The following overview of the budget was presented by the City Manager:

- o the economic slowdown necessitates fiscal restraint;
- o a "hold the line" budget with a 2.5% growth is being presented;
- o there is no change in total positions;
- o there are no significant program expansions; and
- o the high quality of existing services is maintained.

Regarding the economic climate, the following factors were highlighted:

- o the economic slowdown is still in progress;
- o auto sales continue to be sluggish;
- o office vacancy rates remain higher than normal;
- o there is a continued strong economic base;
- o this is a stabilized Capital Improvements Program;
- o the pay-as-you go commitment holds down debt issuance requirements; however, debt issuance will be required this year.

Both Standard and Poor's and Moody's have been invited to come to Rockville, and representatives of both bond agencies will be in Rockville later this year.

With respect to program developments and progress, the following items were referenced:

- o 1990 All America City finalist;
- o Maryland Municipal League Excellence Award in 1991 for neighborhood policing;
- o Neighborhood-oriented concept extended to building and code enforcement;
- o Super Service enters Phase II;
- o Continued improvement of child services;
- o Increased programming of Rockville Cable TV;

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- o GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program.

The City-Community Partnerships continue to thrive as evidenced by:

- o joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce to organize the annual Hometown Holidays celebration;
- o responsibility for Tuesday Night's Senior Supper Club;
- o plan to increase the number of students participating in the highly successful DARE program;
- o continue public-private partnership in support of Rockville Arts Place.

Town Center issues include:

- o coordination with Marine Midland Bank;
- o continued support of Rockville Arts Place;
- o short-term parking needs met by Middle Lane parking lot;
- o continued work on a downtown economic development plan, marketing strategy and traffic-pedestrian study;
- o continued support for Town Center activities.

The FY92 proposed property tax rate is \$.82 per \$100 of assessed valuation; projected FY92 revenues are comprised primarily of property taxes (58%) and intergovernmental revenues (27%), including an increase in tax duplication from the County. Forty-five percent of budget expenditures are personnel-related.

While a water rate increase of \$.12 per gallon is proposed, this proposed rate is significantly less than WSSC's rate. Additionally, there is no recommended increase in the City's sewer rate which will remain at \$2.40.

Regarding Rockville's proposed monthly refuse rate of \$22, the City Manager pointed out that 44% of the City's refuse rate currently goes to pay County tipping fees while only 35% is slated for tipping fees in FY92 as a result of the savings realized from the recycling programs.

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The CIP represents a comprehensive project portfolio including: flexible route choices; high quality maintenance of existing roads; ongoing park improvement program; Phase II of Golf Course enhancements; satisfy EPA standards for sewer and water; expand water and sewer capacity and Civic Center renovation and grounds enhancement. Seventy-four projects are proposed for funding, 55 of which are carryovers.

In summary, the FY92 operating budget and FY92-97 Capital Improvements Program represent:

- o a continued dedication to high level of service;
- o tax rate decrease;
- o commitment to capital investment in the community; and
- o overall, a fiscally sound plan for the future.

Re: Public Hearing: Proposal to levy assessments against properties specially benefitted from the construction of Research Boulevard north of State Route 28 to South Shady Grove Road (Project No. 0A12).

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on assessments proposed for four properties benefitted by the Research Boulevard Project for a total principal amount of \$1,162,320.89. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for ninety (90) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Proposal to levy assessments against properties specially benefitted from the construction of Gude Drive from Research Boulevard to State Route 355 (Project No. 9C11).

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on assessments proposed for nine properties benefitted by the Gude Drive Project for a total principal amount of

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\$2,843,353.96. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for ninety (90) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Proposal to
levy assessment against
property specially benefitted
from the construction of the
Research Boulevard Water Main
(Project 3B32).

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on an assessment in the total principal amount of \$35,650.44 proposed for one property benefitted by the Research Boulevard Water Main Project. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for thirty (30) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Street Closing
and Abandonment Application
SCA-62-91, Ward Corporation,
Applicant.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on the application to abandon part of a 30-foot wide right-of-way as delineated on a map of "Burgundy Park" recorded in Plat Book 1 at Plat 25, and containing 31,791 square feet. The right-of-way is reached from Southlawn Lane, and the portion requested to be abandoned is surrounded by the Applicant's property. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for thirty (30) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Text Amendment
Application T-111-90, Farid
Srour, Applicant.

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The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on the application to amend Chapter 25, "Zoning and Planning" of the Rockville City Code so as to increase the density limits in the Special Development Standards for multi-family dwellings in the O-1 Zone from 60 units per acre up to 125 units per acre upon approval by the Planning Commission and in accordance with the optional methods procedures set forth in Section 25-326 (b) and (d). The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for thirty (30) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Text Amendment
Application T-116-90, Linowes
& Blocher, attorneys for First
National Bank of Maryland,
Applicant.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on the application to amend Chapter 25, "Zoning and Planning" of the Rockville City Code so as to add to the uses permitted in the Town Center Office-1 Zone "a drive-in branch bank facility" and to waive certain design and development requirements of the TCO-1 Zone where a drive-in bank is permitted. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for sixty (60) days.

Re: Public Hearing: Proposal to
amend Section 2 of Article
III, "Board of Supervisors of
Elections; Members; Duties"
of the Charter of the City of
Rockville so as to provide for
staggered terms for the Board
of Supervisors of Elections
beginning in 1991.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on the proposal to amend

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Section 2 of Article III of the Charter of the City of Rockville so as to provide for staggered terms for the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections beginning in 1991. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for two weeks, until the close of business on April 29, 1991.

Re: Citizens' Forum

At this time, the Mayor opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council. There being no citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor closed the Citizens' Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

County to Charge Animal Handling Fee

Mayor Duncan asked if this charge had been factored into the proposed budget and whether it would be passed on through licensing fees. It was agreed that this item would be discussed during the budget worksessions.

Re: New Business

Councilmember Marrinan commented that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments had passed a resolution in support of local government participation in Earth Day and noted that there are a number of activities taking place in our area.

Councilmember Coyle referenced COG's recent report outlining services it had provided to Rockville in 1990, and indicated that this report should be made available to all interested residents and businesses.

As to a projected completion date for the new Twinbrook Safeway, the City Manager advised Councilmember Coyle that staff will provide information in FYI this week.

Mayor Duncan stated that the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department which recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary, has produced a 15 minute video narrated by Ted Koppel.

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He requested that the City show this video on Cable 53.

Re: Next Meeting - April 22

The following items are scheduled for the meeting of April 22: Report from Task Force on Sprinkler Retrofitting; Human Rights Commission Rules and Regulations; adoption of ordinance to increase from \$250 to \$1,000 the expenditures which may be approved by department heads; adoption of resolution to waive variance fees for approximately 100 signs made non-conforming by the 1983 amendments to the Rockville Sign Ordinance; discussion of addition of service club signs to "Welcome to Rockville" sign on Veirs Mill Road.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:00 p.m. on April 17, 1991, or at the call of the Mayor.